IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding an audio signal ~~(x)~~, ~~wherein~~ said method comprising the step of generating a code signal ~~(b1) is generated~~ from the audio signal ~~(x)~~ according to a predefined coding method ~~(201)~~, ~~and~~ wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

[[-]] transforming ~~(207)~~ the audio signal ~~(x)~~ into a set of transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ defining at least a part of the spectro-temporal information in said audio signal ~~(x)~~, said transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ enabling generation of a noise signal having spectro-temporal characteristics substantially similar to said audio signal~~,~~ ; and

[[-]] representing said audio signal ~~(x)~~ by said code signal ~~(b1)~~ and said transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ include at least one prediction coefficient ~~(a1,.....aK)~~ and/or energy level and/or amplitude level and/or gain and/or power level of the audio signal ~~(x)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the transformation parameters (b2) comprise psycho-

acoustic data such as a masking curve and/or an excitation pattern and/or a loudness of the audio signal ~~(x)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein the code signal ~~(b1)~~ comprises amplitude and frequency parameters defining at least one sinusoidal component of said audio signal ~~(x)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ are representative of an estimate of an amplitude of sinusoidal components of said audio signal ~~(x)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of decoding an audio signal from transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ and a code signal ~~(b1)~~ generated according to a predefined coding method ~~(201)~~, the method comprising the steps of:

[[-]] decoding said code signal ~~(b1)~~ into a first audio signal ~~(x1')~~ using a decoding method ~~(203)~~ corresponding to said predefined coding method ~~(201)~~,;

[[-]] generating, from said transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~, a noise signal ~~(x2')~~ having spectro-temporal characteristics substantially similar to said audio signal;

[[-]] generating a second audio signal ~~(x2')~~ by removing from the noise signal ~~(x2')~~ spectro-temporal parts of the audio

signal that are already contained in the first audio signal ~~(x1')~~; and

[[-]] generating the audio signal ~~(x')~~ by adding ~~(211)~~ the first audio signal ~~(x1')~~ and the second audio signal ~~(x2')~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step of generating the second audio signal ~~(x2')~~ comprises:

[[-]] deriving a frequency response by comparing a spectrum of the first audio signal ~~(x1')~~ with a spectrum of the noise signal ~~(x2')~~; and

[[-]] filtering the noise signal ~~(x2')~~ in accordance with said frequency response.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step of generating the second audio signal ~~(x2')~~ comprises:

[[-]] generating a first residual signal ~~(x1)~~ by spectrally flattening the first audio signal ~~(x1')~~ in dependence on spectral data in the transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~;

[[-]] generating a second residual signal ~~(x2)~~ by temporally shaping a noise sequence in dependence on temporal data in the transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~;

[[-]] deriving a frequency response by comparing a spectrum of the first residual signal ~~(x1)~~ with a spectrum of the second residual signal ~~(x2)~~; and

[[-]] filtering the noise signal ~~(r2')~~ in accordance with said frequency response.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step of generating the second audio signal ~~(x2')~~ comprises:

[[-]] generating a first residual signal ~~(r1)~~ by spectrally flattening the first audio signal ~~(x1')~~ in dependence on spectral data in the transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~;

[[-]] generating a second residual signal ~~(r2)~~ by temporally shaping a noise sequence in dependence on temporal data in the transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~;

[[-]] adding the first residual signal ~~(r1)~~ and the second residual signal (r2) into a sum signal ~~(sk)~~;

[[-]] deriving a frequency response for spectrally flattening the sum signal ~~(sk)~~;

[[-]] updating the second residual signal ~~(r2)~~ by filtering the second residual signal ~~(r2)~~ in accordance with said frequency response;

[[-]] repeating said steps of adding, deriving and updating until a spectrum of the sum signal ~~(sk)~~ is substantially flat; and

[[-]] filtering the noise signal ~~(r2')~~ in accordance with all of the derived frequency responses.

10. (Currently Amended) A device ~~(102)~~ for encoding an audio signal ~~(x)~~, the device comprising a first encoder ~~(701)~~ for generating a code signal (b1) according to a predefined coding method, wherein the device further comprises:

[[-]] a second encoder ~~(703)~~ for transforming the audio signal (x) into a set of transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ defining at least a part of the spectro-temporal information in said audio signal (x), said transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ enabling generation of a noise signal having spectro-temporal characteristics substantially similar to said audio signal ~~(x)~~; and

[[-]] processing means ~~(705)~~ for representing said audio signal ~~(x)~~ by said code signal ~~(b1)~~ and said transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A device ~~(107)~~ for decoding an audio signal from transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~ and a code signal ~~(b1)~~ generated according to a predefined coding method ~~(201)~~, the device comprising:

[[-]] a first decoder ~~(203)~~ for decoding said code signal ~~(b1)~~ into a first audio signal ~~(x1')~~ using a decoding method corresponding to said predefined coding method ~~(201)~~;

[[-]] a second decoder ~~(209)~~ for generating, from said transformation parameters ~~(b2)~~, a noise signal ~~(x2')~~ having spectro-temporal characteristics substantially similar to said audio signal;

[[-]] first processing means ~~(305,307)~~ for generating a second audio signal ~~(x2')~~ by removing from the noise signal ~~(r2')~~ spectro-temporal parts of the audio signal that are already contained in the first audio signal ~~(x1')~~,; and

[[-]] adding means ~~(211)~~ for generating the audio signal ~~(x')~~ by adding the first audio signal ~~(x1')~~ and the second audio signal ~~(x2')~~.

12. (Cancelled).

13. A computer-readable medium comprising a data record indicative of an encoded audio signal according to claim 11.